JOB SERVICE

Washington State
Employment Security Department
John Spellman, Governor
Norward Brooks, Commissioner

prepared by the
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in cooperation with the
Bureau of Labor Statistics
and the Employment and
Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor

Washington Labor Market

Volume 7, Number 10 October 1983

HIGHLIGHTS

The number of jobless workers in Washington State fell below 200,000 for the first time in 23 months. Unemployment in September totaled 188,200, down 13,000 from August and 42,000 lower than in September 1982. The jobless rate dropped from 9.9 percent in August to 9.2 percent in September which was the lowest rate of the year. The unemployment rate one year ago was 11.3 percent.

The improvement in the state's labor market this September largely resulted from the beginning of a new school year, the Western Washington Fair, and the apple harvest. The apple harvest alone employed an estimated 17,000 workers in mid-September. Nonfarm wage and salary employment moved up 25,500 between August and September.

	Sept. 1983*	Aug. 1983*	Sept. 1982
Civilian Labor Force	2,052,700	2,041,400	2,028,800
Employment	1,864,500	1,840,200	1,798,600
Unemployment	188,200	201,200	230,200
State Rate	9.2	9.9	11.3
National Civilian Rate	8.8	9.2	9.7

*These data are alternative estimates which are more nearly comparable with data released in previous years than the official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates developed for Federal program purposes.

The largest gain occurred in public education where employment rose 16,300 because of the reopening of schools. The increase mainly represented the rehiring of bus drivers, cafeteria workers, and other nonteaching staff. Most teachers are paid on a twelve-month basis and are considered employed all year. Other sizable gains included an increase of 4,500 in transportation-public utilities, 4,000 in services and 2,100 in retail trade. The gain in transportation-public utilities mainly resulted from the settlement of the labor dispute in the telephone industry. The reopening of private schools and temporary amusement jobs at the Western Washington Fair accounted for most of the gain in services. Retail trade added workers because of back-to-school sales and temporary jobs at food stands and restaurants at the fair.

Manufacturing employment rose 1,800 in September. Food products payrolls jumped 1,700 with plants processing corn, potatoes, late vegetables and making juice. Aerospace employment fell 300 in September, but this was the industry's smallest monthly drop this year.

Over-the-year nonfarm wage and salary employment advanced 13,000. Growth would have been considerably larger had it not been for a drop of 17,400 jobs in transportation equipment. Aerospace accounted for 11,200 of the loss while other transportation equipment payrolls fell 6,200 with most of the loss due to a labor dispute in shipbuilding. The strike, which has since been settled, involved 4,300 workers. Industries credited with substantial year-to-year job growth include trade (up 12,200) and services (up 9,500) in the nonmanufacturing category and lumber (up 1,800), aluminum (up 1,100), other durables (up 900), and chemicals (up 800) in manufacturing.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

The largest reductions in unemployment between August and September occurred in areas where the apple harvest was underway. Unemployment continued to decline in most metropolitan areas, but changes in unemployment levels were mixed in areas where lumbering is the major manufacturing activity. Demand for lumber has softened recently but remains much stronger than was the case last year. In Okanogan County, which is a major apple producer, the unemployment rate plunged from 17.2 percent in August to 11.1 percent in September as the apple harvest and related packing and shipping activity boosted employment from 14,410 to 16,670. In the Wenatchee area, another major apple producer, the jobless rate fell from 14.4 percent in August to 9.0 percent in September. In the Yakima area, which also produces apples but has a more diversified agricultural and industrial base, the drop in unemployment was substantial but not as great as in the Okanogan and Wenatchee areas. Yakima's jobless rate fell from 12.3 to 9.8 percent over the month with employment climbing from 77,200 to 83,700.

In the state's major metropolitan areas, the unemployment rate in the Seattle-Everett area fell from 9.2 to 8.7 percent between August and September, while the rate in the Tacoma Metropolitan Area fell from 10.8 to 10.5 percent. Should aerospace payrolls stabilize as expected, labor market conditions in the central Puget Sound area should improve substantially. In the Spokane Metropolitan Area, the jobless rate dropped from 8.4 to 8.1 percent over the month. Manufacturing employment has increased in Spokane County over the year.

In the lumber areas, the unemployment rate edged up from 12.8 to 12.9 percent in Grays Harbor County and rose from 13.0 to 13.4 percent in Pacific County. In contrast, the jobless rate in Mason County fell from 10.5 to 10.1 percent and Skamania County saw its rate drop from 14.9 to 14.0 percent.

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

Manufacturing employment moved up 1,800 between August and September. Food products added 1,700 to post the largest increase. Food plants and canneries were processing corn, potatoes, late vegetables and making grape and apple juice. Primary metals payrolls rose 400 with 200 of the gain at aluminum plants. Further growth in aluminum employment is anticipated as producers respond to rising prices. The price for the metal was quoted at $.765 per pound for the week ended October 8, 1983, up from $.45 one year before. Other transportation equipment added 300 workers in September. Gains were reported by several shipyards not involved in labor disputes. The labor dispute in shipbuilding involved 4,300 workers at mid-September. The strike was settled in early October.

Aerospace employment fell 300 in September, but this was the industry's smallest monthly drop in 1983. Evidently, increasing orders for jet airliners are beginning to stabilize employment in the industry. Fabricated metal products payrolls were down 200 in September. The loss mainly occurred at one firm which is in the process of closing. Foreign competition was cited for the closure. Lumber employment also fell 200 in September. Logging payrolls rose, but employment was lower in plywood plants and sawmills. Approximately 600 workers were involved in labor disputes in the lumber industry in both August and September.

Manufacturing employment was down 14,600 over the year. The entire loss could be accounted for by a drop of 11,200 in aerospace and 6,200 in other transportation equipment. Approximately 4,300 of the loss in other transportation equipment resulted from a labor dispute which has since been settled. On the positive side, lumber employment was up 1,800 over the year despite a labor dispute involving 600 workers this September. Aluminum employment added 1,100 from its depressed year-earlier level. Growth at firms manufacturing instruments add 900 jobs in the other durable goods classification over the year. Employment in chemicals

rose 800 between September 1982 and September 1983. Most of the growth in chemicals employment occurred in the Richland area.

NONMANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

In the nonmanufacturing industries, the largest August-September change occurred in public education where employment rose 16,300 because of the beginning of a new school year. The increase would have been 700 greater except for a labor dispute. Most of the 16,300 increase represented the rehiring of bus drivers, cafeteria workers, and other nonteaching staff. Most teachers are paid on a twelve-month basis and are considered employed all year. The increase in public payrolls was partially offset by seasonal cutbacks at parks and forests. As a result, the over-the-month growth in government payrolls was pared to 12,300.

Payrolls in transportation and public utilities rose 4,500 between August and September. All of the increase, however, resulted from the settlement of the major strike in the telephone industry. Strikes involving approximately 300 other workers in the industry were active at mid-September. Services employment rose 4,000 in September. Payrolls at membership organizations, included in the service classification, declined because of the end of summer camps and other seasonal activities, but private education rose sharply with the beginning of a new school year. Employment in amusements also jumped because of the hundreds of temporary workers hired to operate rides and games at the Western Washington Fair.

Trade employment moved up 3,400 in September. Payrolls in the wholesale classification rose 1,300 because of seasonal growth at establishments packing and shipping the large 1983 apple crop. Employment in retail trade was up 2,100 in September. General merchandise and apparel store payrolls rose because of back-to-school sales. Employment at eating and drinking places was higher because of temporary jobs at restaurants and food stands at the Western Washington Fair and because of higher employment at private firms which have contracts with public schools to provide food services.

Major employment changes in the nonmanufacturing group over the year were in retail trade, up 11,200, and services, up 9,500. Other noteworthy changes included gains of 2,600 in construction, 2,300 in government and 2,200 in finance-insurance-real estate.

AREA WAGE SURVEY REPORT AVAILABLE

The Wage Analysis Unit of the Research and Analysis Branch recently completed an occupational wage survey in Whatcom County. The survey report, based on data from 176 establishments, presents wage ranges and averages for clerical and data processing occupations as well as occupations typical in specific industries such as restaurants, banks, nursing homes and retail stores. The report, titled "Whatcom County, Area Wage Survey, August 1983", is available on request from Research and Analysis, P.O. Box 46502, Seattle, Washington 98146. Phone (206) 764-6451.

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS IN WASHINGTON STATE, PLACE OF WORK 1/

(In Thousands)

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Sep. 1983 (Prel.)	Aug. 1983 (Rev.)	Sep. 1982	Aug. 1982	Change Aug. 83 to Sep. 83	Change Sep. 82 to Sep. 83
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE AND SALARY.....	1,595.7	1,570.2	1,582.7	1,558.9	+25.5	+13.0
TOTAL MANUFACTURING.....	279.9	278.1	294.5	290.5	+1.8	-14.6
Durable Goods.....	189.5	189.4	203.5	203.7	+0.1	-14.0
Lumber & Wood Products.....	4/42.7	4/42.9	40.9	40.3	-0.2	+1.8
Furniture & Fixtures.....	3.3	3.2	3.0	2.9	+0.1	+0.3
Stone, Clay, & Glass Prod.....	6.4	6.4	5.9	6.0	0.0	+0.5
Primary Metal Industries.....	13.7	13.3	13.0	4/13.4	+0.4	+0.7
Aluminum Prod. & Processing...	9.2	9.0	8.1	8.4	+0.2	+1.1
Fabricated Metal Products.....	9.9	10.1	10.0	10.0	-0.2	-0.1
Machinery.....	26.5	26.4	27.2	27.1	+0.1	-0.7
Machinery exc. Electrical.....	16.1	16.0	16.7	16.7	+0.1	-0.6
Electrical & Electronic Equip.	10.4	10.4	10.5	10.4	0.0	-0.1
Transportation Equipment.....	4/73.3	4/73.3	90.7	91.4	0.0	-17.4
Aerospace.....	61.7	62.0	72.9	73.8	-0.3	-11.2
Other Transp. Equipment.....	4/11.6	4/11.3	17.8	17.6	+0.3	-6.2
Other Durable Goods 2/.....	13.7	13.8	12.8	12.6	-0.1	+0.9
Nondurable Goods.....	90.4	88.7	91.0	86.8	+1.7	-0.6
Food & Kindred Products.....	34.8	33.1	36.6	32.3	+1.7	-1.8
Canned & Preserved Foods.....	14.8	13.5	16.5	12.2	+1.3	-1.7
Apparel & Other Text. Prod.....	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.7	0.0	+0.1
Paper & Allied Products.....	16.2	16.3	16.4	16.6	-0.1	-0.2
Printing & Publishing.....	16.1	16.0	15.7	15.8	+0.1	+0.4
Chemicals & Allied Products....	10.4	10.4	9.6	9.6	0.0	+0.8
Other Nondurable Goods 3/.....	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	0.0	+0.1
MINING & QUARRYING.....	2.8	2.9	3.1	3.1	-0.1	-0.3
CONSTRUCTION.....	81.0	4/81.1	78.4	78.8	-0.1	+2.6
TRANS. & PUBLIC UTILITIES.....	4/90.9	4/86.4	91.8	4/91.3	+4.5	-0.9
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE.....	401.3	397.9	389.1	386.8	+3.4	+12.2
Wholesale Trade.....	101.6	100.3	100.6	100.6	+1.3	+1.0
Retail Trade.....	299.7	297.6	288.5	286.2	+2.1	+11.2
FIN., INS., & REAL ESTATE.....	93.2	93.5	91.0	91.4	-0.3	+2.2
SERVICES.....	333.7	329.7	324.2	319.6	+4.0	+9.5
GOVERNMENT.....	4/312.9	300.6	310.6	297.4	+12.3	+2.3
Federal.....	68.6	68.9	66.8	67.7	-0.3	+1.8
State & Local.....	4/244.3	231.7	243.8	229.7	+12.6	+0.5
Education.....	4/122.6	106.3	121.7	104.2	+16.3	+0.9
(WORKERS IN LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISPUTES).....	5.9	10.0	0.0	0.3	-4.1	+5.9

1/ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, and private household employees. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during pay period including the 12th of the month.

2/ Includes instruments and related products and miscellaneous manufacturing activities.

3/ Includes textile mill products, rubber and miscellaneous plastics products, petroleum refining and related products, and leather products.

4/ Excludes workers involved in labor-management disputes.

Washington State
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT

John Spellman, Governor
Norward J. Brooks, Commissioner

RESIDENT LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT IN WASHINGTON STATE AND LABOR MARKET AREAS

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Date Oct. 25, 1983

Benchmark 1982

	September 1983 Preliminary 3/				August 1983 Revised				September 1982 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate
Washington State Total 1/	2,052,700	1,864,500	188,200	9.2	2,041,400	1,840,200	201,200	9.9	2,028,800	1,798,600	230,200	11.3
Bellingham SMSA	50,500	45,900	4,600	9.1	49,000	44,600	4,400	9.0	48,300	42,700	5,600	11.6
Bremerton SMSA	65,600	61,000	4,600	7.0	66,100	61,400	4,700	7.1	62,000	56,700	5,300	8.5
Olympia SMSA	57,500	51,500	6,000	10.4	58,000	51,700	6,300	10.9	54,900	48,400	6,500	11.8
Seattle-Everett SMSA	695,300	617,400	77,900	8.7	897,100	814,400	82,700	9.2	885,900	792,900	93,000	10.5
Spokane SMSA	154,900	142,400	12,500	8.1	154,200	141,300	12,900	8.4	152,500	134,500	18,000	11.8
Tacoma SMSA	193,500	173,100	20,400	10.5	188,200	167,800	20,400	10.8	190,900	167,000	23,900	12.5
Tri-Cities Area 2/	78,200	69,000	9,200	11.8	78,100	68,100	10,000	12.8	80,600	69,300	11,300	14.0
Yakima SMSA	92,800	83,700	9,100	9.8	86,000	77,200	10,800	12.3	86,700	78,700	10,000	11.3
Wenatchee Labor Area 2/	37,200	33,840	3,360	9.0	37,640	32,230	5,410	14.4	37,960	33,500	4,460	11.7
Adams	8,350	7,570	780	9.3	8,340	7,240	1,100	13.2	7,450	6,820	630	8.5
Asotin	8,310	7,650	660	7.9	8,130	7,450	680	8.4	8,400	7,410	990	11.8
Clallam	20,030	17,910	2,120	10.6	19,890	17,750	2,140	10.8	19,900	16,690	3,210	16.1
Clark	92,560	85,290	7,270	7.9	93,460	85,880	7,580	8.1	94,400	84,560	9,840	10.4
Columbia	2,540	2,310	230	9.1	2,490	2,290	200	8.0	2,440	2,180	260	10.7
Cowlitz	33,170	29,330	3,840	11.6	32,840	28,840	4,000	12.2	33,300	27,940	5,360	16.1
Ferry	2,460	2,190	270	11.0	2,410	2,100	310	12.9	2,490	1,980	510	20.5
Garfield	1,200	1,140	60	5.0	1,180	1,110	70	5.9	1,170	1,080	80	6.8
Grant	25,820	23,280	2,540	9.8	25,670	22,280	3,390	13.2	24,010	21,210	2,800	11.7
Grays Harbor	26,460	24,740	3,660	12.5	29,050	25,330	3,720	12.8	33,790	29,230	4,560	13.5
Island	15,130	13,850	1,280	8.5	15,030	13,800	1,230	8.2	15,060	13,530	1,530	10.2
Jefferson	6,770	6,240	530	7.8	6,860	6,290	570	8.3	6,770	6,060	710	10.5
Kittitas	10,440	9,380	1,060	10.2	10,080	9,080	1,000	9.9	10,070	8,930	1,140	11.3
Klickitat	7,060	6,370	690	9.8	6,970	6,180	790	11.3	7,060	6,070	990	14.0
Lewis	24,470	21,680	2,790	11.4	24,240	21,320	2,920	12.0	24,660	21,250	3,410	13.8
Lincoln	4,360	4,200	180	4.1	4,340	4,180	160	3.7	4,210	4,010	200	4.8
Mason	10,770	9,680	1,090	10.1	10,700	9,580	1,120	10.5	10,860	9,500	1,360	12.5
Okanogan	18,750	16,670	2,080	11.1	17,410	14,410	3,000	17.2	18,070	15,110	2,960	16.4
Pacific	7,550	6,540	1,010	13.4	7,720	6,720	1,000	13.0	7,290	6,270	1,020	14.0
Pend Oreille	3,160	2,660	500	15.8	3,150	2,640	550	17.2	3,270	2,480	790	24.2
San Juan	4,170	3,940	230	5.5	4,440	4,210	230	5.2	3,610	3,380	230	6.4
Skagit	33,230	29,830	3,400	10.2	34,320	30,850	3,470	10.1	32,080	27,690	4,390	13.7
Skamania	2,780	2,390	390	14.0	2,680	2,280	400	14.9	3,110	2,540	570	18.3
Stevens	11,600	10,180	1,420	12.2	11,550	10,060	1,490	12.9	11,980	9,980	2,000	16.7
Wahkiakum	1,150	1,060	90	7.8	1,240	1,090	150	12.1	1,430	1,340	90	6.3
Walla Walla	26,480	24,670	1,810	6.8	26,160	24,330	1,850	7.1	25,920	23,910	2,010	7.8
Whitman	16,360	15,870	510	3.1	14,560	14,040	520	3.6	14,450	13,800	650	4.5

1/ Detail may not add due to rounding.
2/ The Tri-Cities area includes all of Benton and Franklin counties. The Wenatchee Labor Area includes all of Chelan and Douglas counties.
3/ Estimates provided here are for use as an economic time-series. Official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates, which must be used for Federal program purposes, are available upon request.

Research and Analysis Branch

WASHINGTON STATE LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT
ESTIMATES FOR FEDERAL PROGRAM PURPOSES

October 25, 1983
Benchmark 1982

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	September 1983 Preliminary 3/				August 1983 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Washington State Total 1/	2,056,500	1,861,600	194,900	9.5	2,033,800	1,830,000	203,800	10.0
Bellingham SMSA	50,600	45,800	4,800	9.5	48,800	44,300	4,500	9.2
Bremerton SMSA	65,700	60,900	4,800	7.3	65,800	61,100	4,700	7.1
Olympia SMSA	57,600	51,400	6,200	10.8	57,800	51,500	6,300	10.9
Seattle-Everett SMSA	896,800	816,100	80,700	9.0	893,600	809,800	83,800	9.4
King County	706,900	645,000	61,900	8.8	704,700	640,000	64,700	9.2
Snohomish County	189,900	171,100	18,800	9.9	188,900	169,800	19,100	10.1
Spokane SMSA	155,200	142,200	13,000	8.4	153,500	140,500	13,000	8.5
Tacoma SMSA	194,000	172,900	21,100	10.9	187,500	166,900	20,600	11.0
Tri-Cities Area 2/	78,400	68,900	9,500	12.1	77,900	67,700	10,200	13.1
Yakima SMSA	93,000	83,600	9,400	10.1	87,700	76,800	10,900	12.4
Wenatchee Labor Area 3/	37,270	33,790	3,480	9.3	37,530	32,050	5,480	14.6
Adams	8,370	7,560	810	9.7	8,310	7,200	1,110	13.4
Asotin	8,330	7,640	690	8.3	8,100	7,410	690	8.5
Clallam	20,080	17,880	2,200	11.0	19,820	17,650	2,170	10.9
Clark	92,680	85,160	7,520	8.1	93,080	85,400	7,680	8.3
Columbia	2,550	2,310	240	9.4	2,480	2,280	200	8.1
Cowlitz	33,270	29,290	3,980	12.0	32,730	28,680	4,050	12.4
Ferry	2,470	2,190	280	11.3	2,400	2,080	320	13.3
Garfield	1,210	1,140	70	5.8	1,180	1,110	70	5.9
Grant	25,880	23,250	2,630	10.2	25,590	22,160	3,430	13.4
Grays Harbor	28,490	24,700	3,790	13.3	28,960	25,190	3,770	13.0
Island	15,150	13,820	1,330	8.8	14,970	13,720	1,250	8.4
Jefferson	6,770	6,230	540	8.0	6,840	6,260	580	8.5
Kittitas	10,470	9,370	1,100	10.5	10,040	9,030	1,010	10.1
Klickitat	7,080	6,360	720	10.2	6,950	6,150	800	11.5
Lewis	24,540	21,650	2,890	11.8	24,150	21,200	2,950	12.2
Lincoln	4,380	4,190	190	4.3	4,320	4,160	160	3.7
Mason	10,790	9,660	1,130	10.5	10,670	9,530	1,140	10.7
Okanogan	18,790	16,640	2,150	11.4	17,370	14,330	3,040	17.5
Pacific	7,580	6,530	1,050	13.9	7,690	6,680	1,010	13.1
Pend Oreille	3,170	2,650	520	16.4	3,190	2,630	560	17.6
San Juan	4,180	3,940	240	5.7	4,420	4,190	230	5.2
Skagit	33,300	29,780	3,520	10.6	34,190	30,680	3,510	10.3
Skamania	2,780	2,380	400	14.4	2,680	2,270	410	15.3
Stevens	11,630	10,160	1,470	12.6	11,520	10,010	1,510	13.1
Wahkiakum	1,160	1,060	100	8.6	1,240	1,090	150	12.1
Walla Walla	26,520	24,640	1,880	7.1	26,070	24,200	1,870	7.2
Whitman	16,370	15,840	530	3.2	14,490	13,970	520	3.6

1/ Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data. Data are not comparable with estimates made in previous years.

2/ Includes Benton and Franklin counties.

3/ Includes Chelan and Douglas counties.

ESTIMATED AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING AND OF NONSUPERVISORY WORKERS IN NONMANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES, STATE OF WASHINGTON

	Aug. 1983 Prod. or Nonsup. Workers	Average weekly earnings			Average weekly hours			Average hourly earnings		
		Aug. 1983	Jul. 1983	Aug. 1982	Aug. 1983	Jul. 1983	Aug. 1982	Aug. 1983	Jul. 1983	Aug. 1982
TOTAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	177,200	$443.12	$447.76	$435.79	38.7	38.7	38.6	$11.45	$11.57	$11.29
Lumber and wood products	35,500	440.80	448.89	416.26	38.0	39.0	37.1	11.60	11.51	11.22
Primary metal industries	10,300	558.86	548.22	536.36	42.5	41.5	42.3	13.15	13.21	12.68
Fabricated metal products	7,500	500.12	514.59	488.43	40.3	41.6	40.5	12.41	12.37	12.06
Machinery 1/	15,700	373.63	366.22	353.44	38.4	37.6	37.6	9.73	9.74	9.40
Transportation equipment	29,400	512.07	514.65	522.69	39.0	38.9	40.3	13.13	13.23	12.97
Food and kindred products	25,300	354.56	355.67	364.60	37.6	37.4	38.5	9.38	9.51	9.47
Chemicals and allied products	5,000	506.32	520.30	480.67	41.4	43.0	40.7	12.23	12.10	11.81
SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Construction	61,100	657.11	625.11	623.15	37.7	35.7	34.6	17.43	17.51	18.01
Wholesale and retail trade	246,800	325.03	329.93	315.86	35.6	35.4	35.5	9.13	9.32	9.01

1/ Data prior to January 1983 is no longer comparable due a break in the series.

OVER 11.1
9.8 - 11.0
7.9 - 9.7
UNDER 7.9

SEPTEMBER
UNEMPLOYMENT
RATE